

## Nyack designer takes yard from plain to plush

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The Journal News

Tune in tonight to HGTV to see Nyack garden designer and landscaper Jon Feldman transform a very ordinary Nyack back yard into a new world of colorful plantings and homey comfort.

In a design competition with two other landscapers last May, Feldman won the right to redesign Veronica and Joe Martino's yard and earn 30 minutes of fame as the star of his own episode of the "Landscapers' Challenge" television show. The show, which is titled "Romantic, Old World Backyard," airs on HGTV at 9:30 p.m. tonight and again at 1:30 p.m. Friday and 11 a.m. Saturday.

Each week on "Landscapers' Challenge," three professional landscapers face off with their own design plans for a real-life homeowner in need of landscaping help. After looking at the three designs, the



Jon Feldman

Veronica and Joe Martino's garden in Nyack before the Landscaper's Challenge show was "a barren square with no features," says Joe Martino. The couple kept the stone wall along the back of the yard.

homeowner picks the winner. Then the winner installs the plan, and cameras document the process and the owner's reaction.

In this episode, Feldman, the owner of G. biloba Garden Environments in Nyack, won over Carl Monte of Carl Monte Landscape Architects in New City and Cathy and Betsy Fitzsimons of Willow-

town Gardens in Brooklyn.

"Before he started, it was just a barren square, with no features, no trees, pretty much just a square patch of grass," Joe Martino says.

"Jon obviously was chosen for a couple of reasons," he says. "No. 1, he's a local boy and No. 2, his reputation preceded him." The Marti-

Please see **LANDSCAPE, 3D**



HGTV

Jon Feldman, the owner of G. biloba Garden Environments in Nyack, designed the "cozy, old-fashioned, charming back yard" the couple was looking for.

## From plain to plush on HGTV show

LANDSCAPE, from 1D

nos also liked that Feldman had his own crew and would be on site with his workers.

The Martinos, who had a budget of \$30,000 for the job, were clear about the look they wanted, Feldman says. (They paid for all of the work, not HGTV.)

"They wanted a cozy, old-fashioned, charming back yard," he says.

They didn't have much in the way of plantings, but they did have a wonderful old stone wall at the back of the property that Feldman was able to incorporate into his design. He also added a bluestone sitting-retaining wall and a sandstone patio and restored two old brick fireplaces.

In the back of the property near that stone wall, he created a secret garden just for the two of them.

They wanted a lot of color and Feldman tried his best to use plants



HGTV

To the garden, designer Jon Feldman added a bluestone sitting-retaining wall and a sandstone patio and restored two old brick fireplaces.

with multiseason color and interest, including dozens of perennials and flowering shrubs. For privacy, he brought in a new wooden fence and many new trees, including a clump birch, Korean and native dogwoods, magnolia and a yellow arborvitae.

The yard is an unusual mix of absolutely dark shade and full sun at the same time, so Feldman had to adjust his palette of plants accordingly, adding a mix of ferns and hostas for the shade and sun lovers

like caryopteris for the bright areas.

"He did a great job," Martino says. "He completed it on time, he was there every day during construction and he was very professional and thorough in his thought process. It's now a vacation destination for me on weekends."

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